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Hull

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(54) **AMBIDEXTROUS GLOVE**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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A41D 19/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **2/163**; 2/159

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 2/161.6, 2/167, 16, 164, 168, 18, 19, 169, 163, 159, 2/158; 66/174, 172 E

See application file for complete search history.

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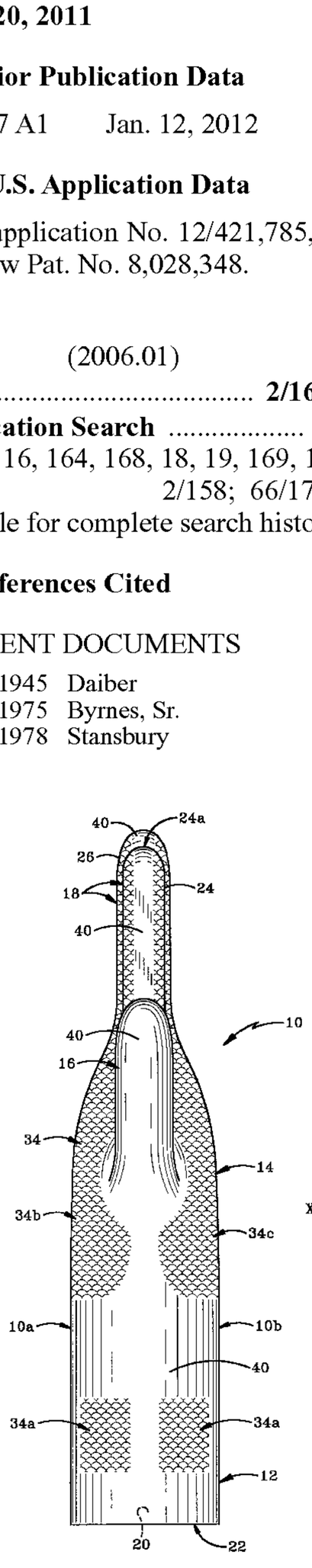
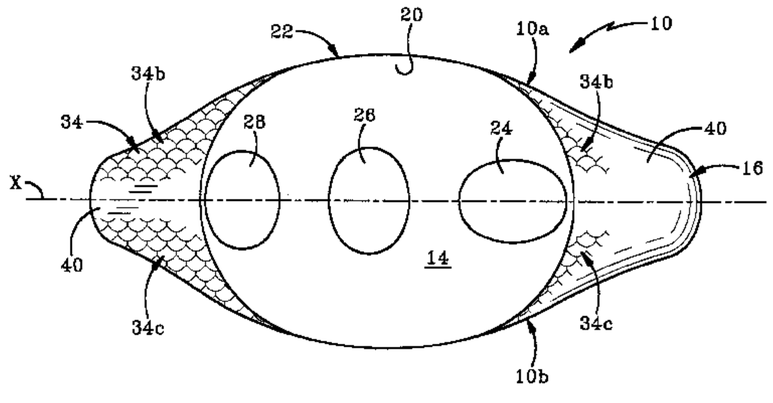
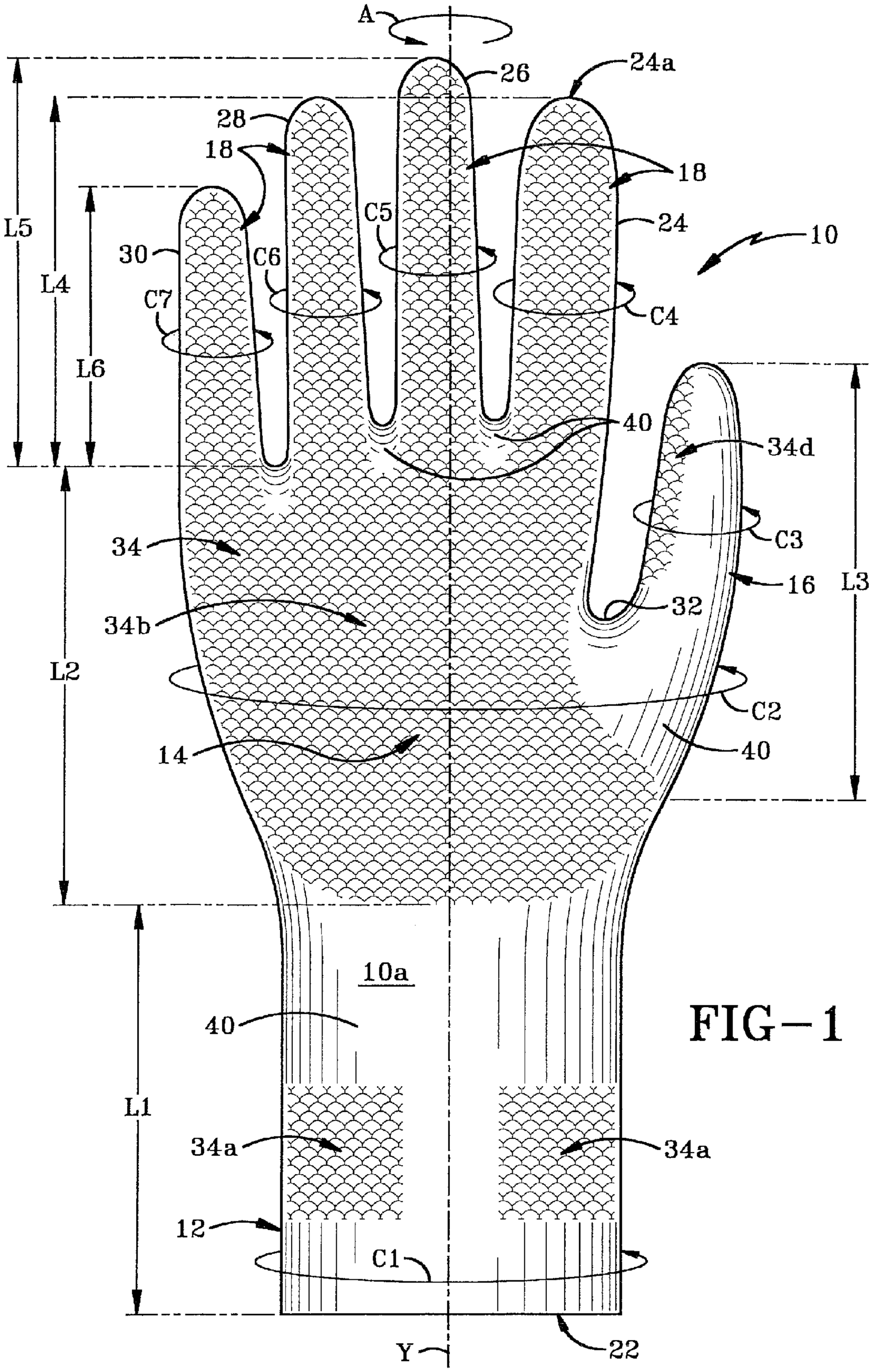
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An ambidextrous glove that includes a thumb region, an index finger region, a middle finger region, a ring finger region and little finger region all aligned along a common axis. The index finger region is rotated through ninety degrees relative to the orientations of all of the middle, ring and little finger regions to provide for easier insertion of a hand into the glove. A textured pattern is provided on the surfaces of the glove used to grip objects. The pattern is one of a raised fan shape and raised diamond shape.

17 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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L5
C5
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C7
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C3
34
16
L3
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C2
14
40
10a
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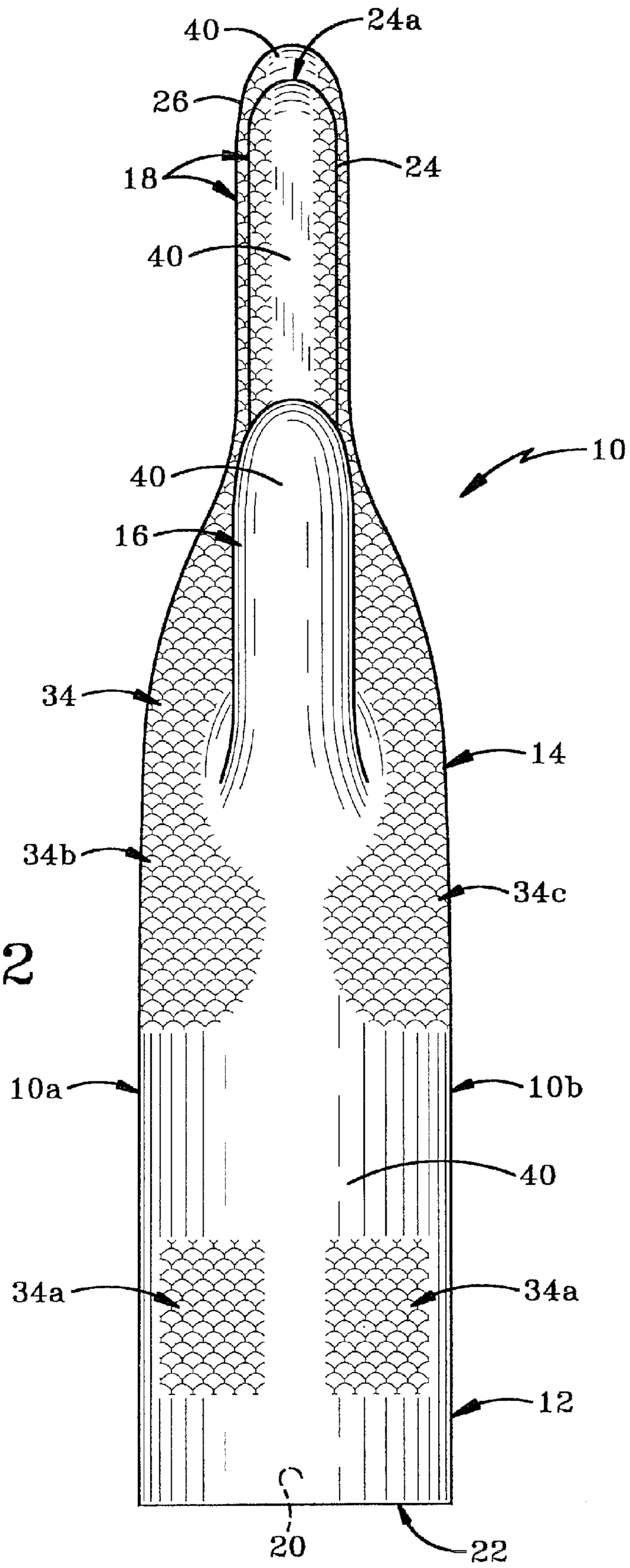
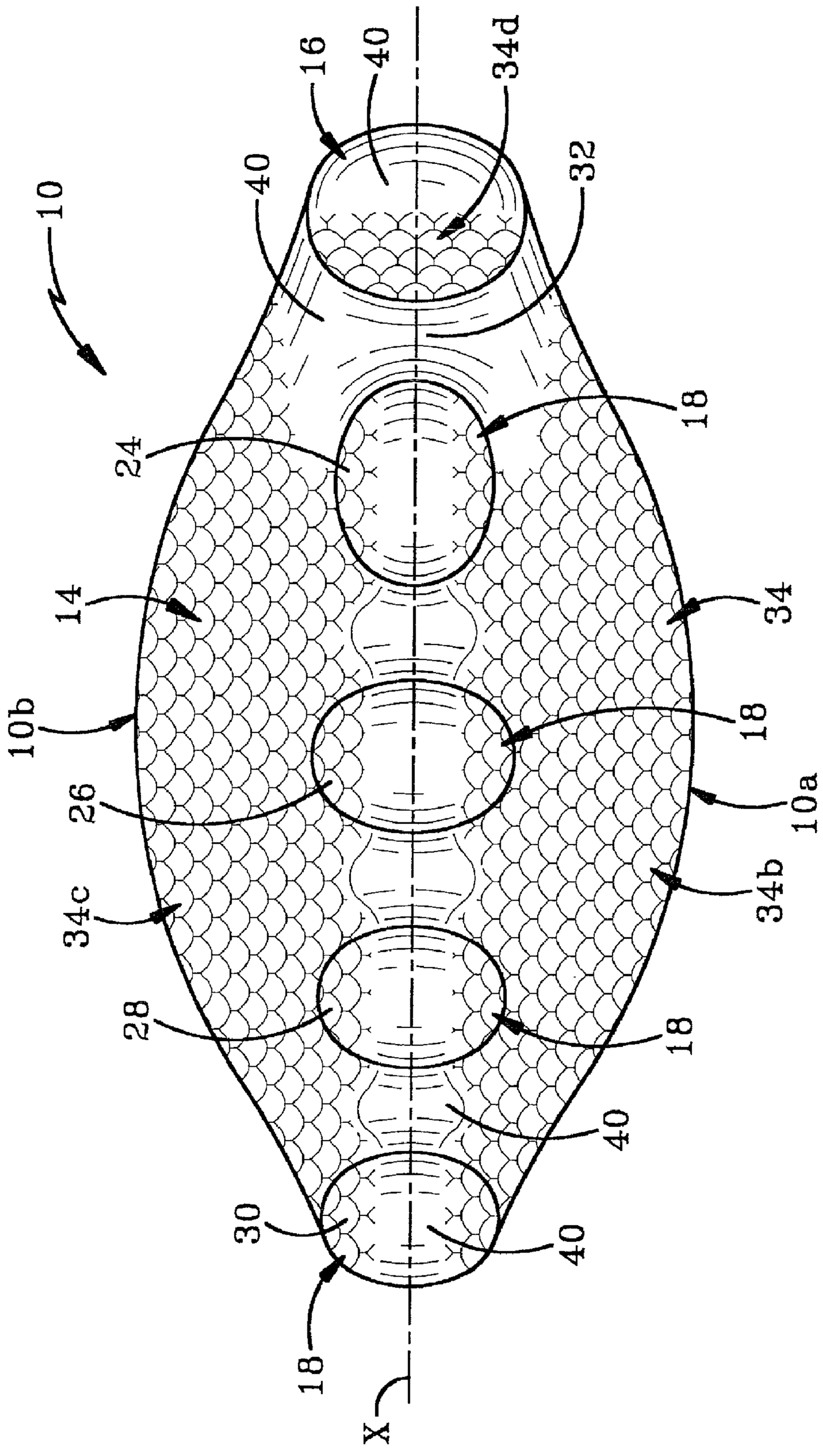
L1
34a
34a
12
C1
Y
22

FIG–1



FIG–2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16
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34d
32
40
18
24
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18
26
34c
10a
34b
28
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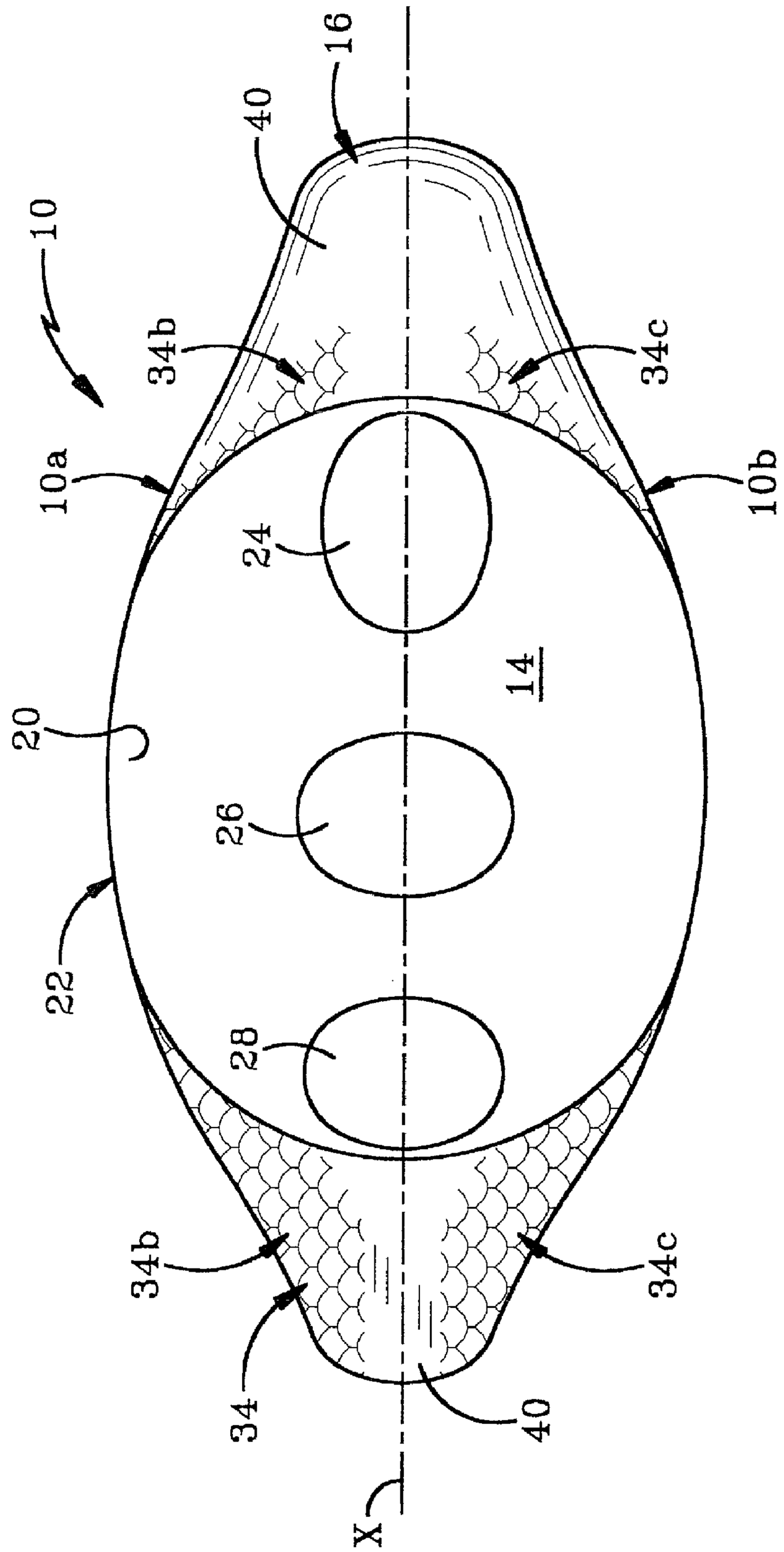
30
40
18
X

FIG–3



FIG—4

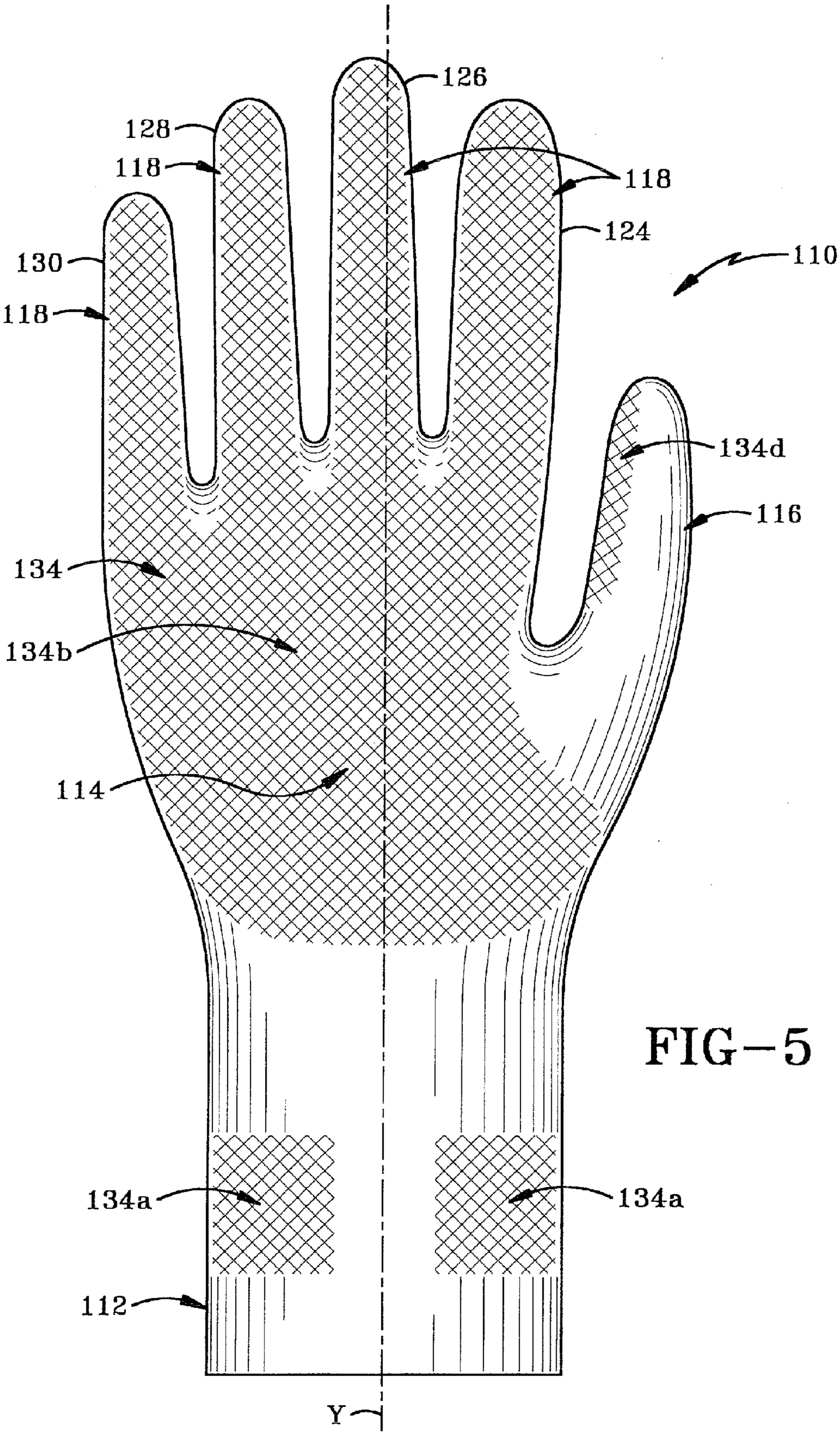

126
128
118
118
124
130
110
118
134d
116
134
134b
114
134a
134a
112
Y

FIG-5

AMBIDEXTROUS GLOVE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/421,785 filed Apr. 10, 2009, the entire specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

This invention generally relates to gloves. More particularly, the invention relates to a protective glove used in the food packaging and processing industry and more particularly the red meat and poultry processing industries. Specifically, the invention relates to an ambidextrous glove that may be used on either of the left hand and the right hand and which includes an index finger region rotated through ninety degrees relative to an axis along which the four finger regions of the glove are aligned.

2. Background Information

Gloves are used in the food processing and packaging industries to protect workers' hands from contamination and injury. Workers typically wear a liner that is a cotton knit material or is made from aramid fibers that protect against cuts and abrasions. A thicker, waterproof glove is worn over the liner to protect the worker. These gloves are typically manufactured from different polymers depending on the type of food processing applications they are to be used in. In the chicken processing industry, for instance, these exterior gloves are typically made from natural rubber latex. In the beef and pork processing industries the gloves are typically made from a variety of synthetic rubbers such as acrylonitrile-butadiene (nitrile), polychloroprene or polyvinyl chloride. The materials used for the gloves in the two industries differ because naturally occurring chemicals in chicken fat tend to attack materials other than natural rubber latex. This leads to a premature breakdown of the glove surface and the glove starts to swell. Once this occurs, the glove has to be thrown away. Since the gloves come in pairs, workers typically have to discard both gloves when only one of them has been damaged. In even a small food processing and packaging plant as many as a container load of undamaged gloves need to be disposed of each year. This tends to drive up the cost of doing business.

There is therefore a need in the industry for an improved glove that will assist in reducing the number of gloves that have to be purchased and discarded.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The device of the present invention is an ambidextrous glove that is specially designed to be worn on either of a left and a right hand.

The glove includes a thumb region, an index finger region, a middle finger region, a ring finger region and little finger region all aligned along a common axis. The index finger region is rotated through ninety degrees relative to the orientations of all of the middle, ring and little finger regions to provide for easier insertion of a hand into the glove. A textured pattern is provided on the surfaces of the glove used to grip objects. In order to distinguish between the gloves used in poultry processing facilities and beef or pork processing facilities, the gloves are provided with a raised, textured pattern on the surfaces used to grip objects. The pattern is one of a raised fan-shape for poultry processing gloves and a raised diamond-shape for beef or pork processing. The pattern is raised in texture to aid in gripping and safe handling of the meat product.

The glove preferably is of a unitary construction. The material used to manufacture the gloves preferably is of a progressive thickness with the material in the fingers of the glove being the thickest part of the glove.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The preferred embodiments of the invention, illustrative of the best mode in which applicant has contemplated applying the principles, are set forth in the following description and are shown in the drawings and are particularly and distinctly pointed out and set forth in the appended claims.

FIG. **1** is a front view of an ambidextrous glove in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a right side view of the glove of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a top view of the glove of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a bottom view of the glove of FIG. **1** showing the opening to the glove with the entryways into the index finger region, the middle finger region and the ring finger region being visible together with a portion of the palm region that is disposed between these finger regions; and

FIG. **5** is a front view of an ambidextrous glove in accordance with the present invention and showing an alternative embodiment of a texture pattern provided thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIGS. **1-5**, there is shown a first embodiment of an ambidextrous or reversible glove in accordance with the present invention and being generally indicated at **10**. Glove **10** is designed for use in the chicken processing industry and is provided with a fan-shaped gripping pattern on its exterior surface, as will be hereinafter described. A second embodiment of an ambidextrous glove in accordance with the present invention is shown in FIG. **5** and is generally indicated at **110**. Glove **110** is designed for use in the beef and pork processing industries and is provided with a raised diamond-shaped gripping pattern on its exterior surface, as will be hereinafter described. Gloves **10** and **110** are designed to be worn on either of a left hand or a right hand. Both of FIGS. **1** and **4** illustrate the glove oriented for placement on a person's left hand. The glove is oriented for placement on a person's right hand by simply turning the glove through 180 degrees about a longitudinal axis "Y". This rotation is illustrated by the arrow "A" in FIG. **1**.

Referring to FIGS. **1-4**, glove **10** preferably is designed for use in the food processing and packaging industries and is therefore manufactured from any material suitable for use in these industries. Specifically as illustrated in FIG. **1**, glove **10** is designed for use in the chicken processing and packaging industries. Glove **10** preferably is therefore manufactured from natural rubber latex or any other suitable material that will tend to not become damaged when exposed to chicken fat. Suitable materials preferably are also of a type that may be shaped on a mold as opposed to materials that must be sewn or otherwise secured together.

Glove **10** includes a wrist region **12**, a palm region **14**, a thumb region **16** and four digit regions **18**. Glove **10** has a front exterior surface **10***a* and a back exterior surface **10***b*. The configuration of the glove **10** is such that the front and back surfaces **10***a*, **10***b* are substantially identical in appearance. It should be noted that the terms "front" and "back" are simply used herein in order to reference the specific orientation of glove **10** shown in the attached figures. Obviously, if the glove **10** is rotated through 180 degrees, the front surface **10***a* will become the back surface **10***b* and vice versa. Glove **10** preferably is manufactured as a unitary component and is therefore free of seams or other connection means between the various regions.

Wrist region **12** is configured to cover the wrist (not shown) of a person and preferably a portion of their lower forearm. An opening **20** (FIG. **4**) is defined at the end **22** of wrist region **12**. Opening **20** is sized so as to permit insertion of a hand therethrough. Wrist region **12** has a circumference C**1** and a length L**1**. The end **22** of wrist region **12** is substantially planar and of a uniform thickness with the rest of wrist region **12**. It should be noted that wrist region **12** preferably is free of any longitudinally aligned slits that might extend from the end **22** inwardly toward the digit regions **18** and which aid in inserting a hand into glove **10**. First region **12** preferably is also free of any cuffs and any fastening mechanisms that might be used to secure glove **10** around the wrist or forearm of the wearer.

Palm region **14** extends outwardly away from the innermost end of wrist region **12** opposite end **22**. Palm region **14** is configured to cover the front and back of the person's hand and has a circumference C**2** and a length L**2**. The length L**2** is measured from the innermost end of wrist region **12** up to the origin zones of the four digit regions **18**.

Thumb region **16** extends outwardly from palm region **14** and has a circumference C**3** and a length L**3**. Thumb region **16** is adapted to receive a thumb therein.

The four digit regions **18** extend outwardly from palm region **14**. The four digit regions **18** and thumb region **16** are substantially aligned along a common axis "X" (FIG. **3**) and are therefore substantially coplanar. The four digit regions **18** include an index finger region **24**, a middle finger region **26**, a ring finger region **28** and a little finger region **30** that are adapted to receive an index, middle, ring, and little finger, respectively. Thumb region **16** and index finger region **24** are separated from each other by a crotch **32** that is configured to permit the thumb region **16** to move easily relative to the palm region **14** and digit regions **8**.

Index finger region **24** has a circumference C**4** and a length L**4**. Middle finger region **26** has a circumference C**5** and a length L**5**. Ring finger region **28** has a circumference C**6**. Ring finger region **28** is also of a length L**4** that is substantially equal to the length of index finger region **24**. It will be understood, however that index and ring finger regions **24**, **28** may be manufactured to be of different lengths relative to each other. Finally, little finger region **30** has a circumference C**7** and a length L**6**.

Referring to FIG. **3** and in accordance with one of the specific features of the present invention, all of digit regions **18** and thumb region **16** are aligned along an axis "X". This alignment aids in permitting glove **10** to be worn on either of a left and right hand. Furthermore, index finger region **24** is turned or rotated through 90 degrees relative to axis "X" as compared with middle, ring and little finger regions **26**, **28**, **30** and with thumb region **16**. This orientation of index finger region **24** provides a wider and larger contact work surface area on index finger region **24**. This gives gloves **10** a better gripping action as the primary gripping areas on index finger region **24** and thumb region **16** are enlarged relative to previously known gloves. The orientation of index finger region **24** also makes it easier for a user to insert their hand into the ambidextrous glove **10**. The industry standard used prior to this invention is for all of the digit regions to be oriented in substantially an identical manner relative to an axis passing through these regions, such as axis "X".

As will be known to those skilled in the art, there are a variety of voluntary consensus standards laid out for various industries, including those involved in the manufacture of gloves. These voluntary standards are published by organizations such as ASTM International, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The standards are readily available to those skilled in the art and include standards for gloves manufactured on forms or molds. Gloves typically are manufactured in standard sizes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 or SS, S, M, L and XL. Each of these standard sizes has specific dimensions for the width, length and/or circumference of the various components on the form and thereby on the glove. Additionally, these components are arranged and oriented relative to each other in a particular manner. An example of the dimensions of a standard form is provided hereto as Appendix "A". In the following description, reference will be made to the "industry standard" for a variety of components. It should be understood by the reader that the inventor regards the "industry standard" as prior art. It should further be understood that the industry standard glove referred to herein is not an ambidextrous or reversible glove. It is a glove that is designed to be worn on only one of a left and a right hand. The table in Appendix "A" is provided by way of example only.

In accordance with one of the specific features of the present invention, the circumference C**1** of wrist region **12** on glove **10** has been increased by between 5 mm and 10 mm over the circumference of the industry standard for the wrist region **12**. For example, in an industry standard size 7 glove, the circumference of the wrist region is 166 mm while on glove **10** of the present invention the circumference is 192 mm. This increase in wrist region circumference C**1** over the industry standard makes it easier for the person to put the glove **10** on either of their left and right hands.

Circumference C**2** of palm region **14** has been increased by around 6 mm over the industry standard so that the glove **10** is easier to wear on either of a left and right hand, and also to permit the person to wear a liner (not shown) under glove **10**. The industry standard for the circumference of a palm region on a size 10 glove, for example, is 235 mm, while the circumference C**2** of the glove **10** in accordance with the present invention is 271 mm.

In accordance with yet another specific feature of the present invention, the circumferences C**4** and C**5** of index finger region **24** and middle finger region **26**, respectively, are increased relative to the industry standard circumference for these components. For an industry standard size 7 glove, for example, the circumference of an index finger region would be 55 mm and the circumference of a middle finger region would be 59 mm. In the glove **10** of the present invention, however, the circumference C**4** of index finger region **24** is 65 mm and the circumference C**5** of middle finger region **26** is 74 mm. For an industry standard size 9 glove, the circumference of an index finger region would be 65 mm and the circumference of a middle finger region would be 69 mm. In the glove **10** of the present invention, however, the circumference C**4** of index finger region **24** is 77 mm and the circumference C**5** of middle finger region **26** is 82 mm. In the glove **10** of the present invention, the circumferences C**4**, C**5** of index finger region **24** and middle finger region have each been increased by around 1 mm-5 mm and preferably by 2 mm-3 mm over the dimensions of the industry standard. The circumferences C**6** and C**7** of the ring and little finger regions **28**, **30** on glove **10** remain the same as those used as the industry standard. The different orientation of index finger region **24** relative to the middle, ring and little finger regions **26**, **28**, **30**, combined with the increased circumferences C**4**, C**5** of index and middle finger regions **24**, **26**, makes it possible for a person to more easily insert either of their left and right hands into glove **10**. These features also make it easier to wear and use the glove on either of a left and right hand as they aid in improving the fit of the glove on both hand orientations.

In accordance with yet another specific feature of the present invention, crotch **32** of glove **10** also differs from the industry standard in that the crotch **32** is situated about 7.2% further from the tip **24***a* of index finger region **24** than is the case in the industry standard. In the industry standard size 9 glove, the crotch is situated at a distance of 121 mm below the tip of the index finger region. In the glove **10** of the present invention, crotch **32** is situated at a distance of 130 mm below

the tip **24***a* of index finger region **24**. In an industry standard size 10 glove, the crotch is situated at a distance of 125 mm below the tip of the index finger region. In the glove **10** of the present invention, crotch **32** is situated at a distance of 132 mm below the tip **24***a* of the index finger region **24**. Consequently, crotch **32** is positioned around 4-7 mm, and preferably 5 mm, lower than the crotch of the industry standard. This lower crotch position improves the fit of glove **10** when worn on either of a left or a right hand.

In accordance with a further specific feature of the present invention, glove **10** is provided with a gripping surface **34** on both of front and back surfaces **10***a*, **10***b* of glove **10**. This gripping surface **34** takes the form of a textured pattern that is either embossed or molded into surfaces **10***a*, **10***b* or is applied externally thereto. Gripping surface **34** aids the person in gripping objects, especially wet or moist objects. FIG. **1** shows a first embodiment of a textured pattern used on gripping surface **34** of glove **10**. This pattern preferably is a raised fan-shape pattern **34** that is provided in several zones on glove **10**. The first of these zones is applied in an annular band **34***a* disposed proximate the end **22** of glove **10**. Band **34***a* is substantially concentric with opening **20** and is provided to aid the worker in pulling gloves **10** on or off their hand. Band **34***a* may take the form of a substantially continuous annular band that circumscribes opening **20** or may, alternatively, and as is shown in the attached figures, take the form of a plurality of discrete regions of pattern that circumscribe wrist region **12**. The second of these patterned zones **34***b* is provided on front exterior surface **10***a* of glove **10** and extends over substantially all of the palm region **14** all of the front surfaces of the index, middle, ring and little finger regions **24**, **26**, **28**, **30** that may come into contact with an object when gripped. Patterned zone **34***b* preferably covers between 70% and 100% of palm region **14** and between 60% and 100% of digit regions **18**. For instance, in the index finger region **24**, the patterned zone **34***b* covers, on average 28%, more of the work surface than is the case in the industry standard.

In accordance with a specific feature of the present invention, a substantially identical third patterned zone **34***c* is provided on the rear exterior surface **10***b* of glove **10**. Patterned zone **34***c* extends over substantially all of the palm region and the back surfaces of the index, middle, ring and little finger regions **24-30** that would come into contact with an object if the glove **10** were rotated through 180 degrees. Consequently, patterned zone **34***c* covers between 70% and 100% of palm region **14** and between 60% and 100% of digit regions **18**. Because the front and back exterior surfaces **10***a*, **10***b* of the glove **10** are substantially identical to each other, the second and third patterned zones **34***b*, **34***c* are located in substantially identical positions on the front and back surfaces. The substantially identical location of the zones **34***b*, **34***c* on the front and back exterior surfaces of glove **10** are provided so that no matter which of the left and right hand the glove is worn on, the person has substantially the same ability to grip the object they need to hold.

It should be noted that there are areas **40** of wrist region **12**, palm region **14**, thumb region **16** and digit regions **18** that do not necessarily need to be provided with the textured pattern as these areas are not located in areas that will touch an object when the person is gripping the same using the glove. The surface of glove **10** in areas **40** preferably is substantially smooth. Nonetheless, if desired, these areas **40** may also be provided with the pattern **34** embossed thereon.

A fourth textured surface pattern **34***d* is provided on the interior side **42** of thumb region **16**. This pattern is provided on substantially the entire side **42** to aid the person in gripping objects. The remainder of the thumb region **16** and the crotch **32** comprises one of the un-textured areas **40**. The fourth textured surface pattern **34***d* is provided on between 30% and 50% of the thumb region **16**, which substantially 100% of the pattern **34***d* being provided on the interior side surface **42**.

All of the first, second, third and fourth patterned zones preferably are provided with a fan-shaped pattern. This pattern aids in channeling moisture away from the surface of the glove that directly contacts the object being gripped and thereby reduces the tendency of the object to slip out of the person's hands. The textured surface also bites slightly into the exterior surface of the object being held, thereby physically aiding in gripping of the same. It will be understood that patterns other than the fan shape may be utilized in these zones. However, the provision of the fan-shaped pattern on glove **10** acts a visual aid to workers so that they can be sure they are wearing a glove manufactured especially for handling poultry. The fan pattern provided on all the digit regions of glove **10** covers a larger area and provides a larger gripping work surface than any previously known hand specific glove, i.e., any previously known non-ambidextrous glove.

Referring to FIG. **5**, there is shown a second embodiment of an ambidextrous glove in accordance with the present invention and generally indicated at **110**. Glove **110** is designed for use in the beef and pork processing and packaging industries and is therefore typically manufactured from a variety of synthetic rubbers such as acrylonitrile-butadiene (nitrile), polychloroprene or polyvinyl chloride. It will be understood, however, that any other material suitable for this purpose may be utilized. Glove **110** is substantially identical in configuration to glove **10** in that it includes a wrist region **112**, a palm region **114**, a thumb region **116** and four digit regions **118**. Digit regions **118** include an index finger region **124**, middle finger region **126**, ring finger region **128** and little finger region **130**. The only difference between glove **10** and glove **110** is that the latter is provided with a raised diamond-shaped pattern in the gripping zones **134***a*, **134***b* and **134***d* instead of the fan-shaped pattern provided on glove **10**. (As with glove **10**, the back surface of glove **110**, which is not illustrated herein, is provided with a substantially identical patterned zone to that of **134***b*). The raised diamond-shaped pattern provided in the zones **134** serves exactly the same function as that of the pattern in the zones **34** of glove **10**. Consequently, the raised diamond-shaped pattern aids the worker in gripping objects and channels any moisture away from the surfaces of glove **110** that directly contact the object being held.

The gloves **10**, **110** of the present invention are used by orienting them in the appropriate manner so that they may be pulled onto either of a right hand or a left hand. A food processing and packaging plant need only provide boxes of the ambidextrous gloves in the various sizes for their workers to use. If a glove becomes damaged or punctured during use, the worker can simply pull that single glove off their hand and dispose of the same. The undamaged glove on their other hand does not need to be removed and thrown away. The worker then selects a single ambidextrous replacement glove from the appropriate container and puts it on the exposed hand. In this way, the ambidextrous glove in accordance with the present invention tends to reduce the quantity of gloves used by a processing facility.

In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness, and understanding. No unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirement of the prior art because such terms are used for descriptive purposes and are intended to be broadly construed.

Moreover, the description and illustration of the invention are an example and the invention is not limited to the exact details shown or described.

APPENDIX A

HAND FORMER SPECIFICATION-MD-6 (SHARP FINGER)
(All dimensions are in mm)

Description/Size	SS	S	M	L	XL
Height of Hand	400	400	400	400	400
Length of Hand	181	193	198	217	220
Palm Circumference	168	177	200	228	235
Wrist Circumference	151	166	180	193	204
Shank Circumference	181	199	208	209	220
Thumb length (1)	49	53	55	58	63
Index finger length (2)	64	67	72	73	75
Middle finger length (3)	76	79	83	84	85
Ring finger length (4)	67	71	75	75	79
Little finger length (5)	47	54	56	59	62
Thumb Circumference (1)	57	60	65	73	80
Index finger circumference (2)	51	55	61	65	69
Middle finger circumference (3)	54	59	64	69	73
Ring finger circumference (4)	51	54	59	64	68
Little finger circumference (5)	44	47	52	57	61

The invention claimed is:

1. A glove comprising:

a palm region adapted to cover a palm and back of a person's hand;

a thumb region extending outwardly from the palm region and adapted to receive the person's thumb therein; and

four digit regions extending outwardly from the palm region and adapted to receive the four fingers of the person's hand therein; and wherein said digit and thumb regions are substantially aligned with each other along a common axis; and wherein the glove is adapted to be an ambidextrous glove that is wearable on either of the person's left hand or right hand; and wherein said digit regions include:

an index finger region disposed adjacent the thumb region and adapted to receive the index finger of the person's hand therein; and wherein said index finger region is oriented at ninety degrees relative to the axis and to an orientation of the remaining three digit regions.

2. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the remaining three digit regions includes a middle finger region adjacent the index finger region and adapted to receive a middle finger therein; and wherein said middle finger region is wider than remaining two digit regions.

3. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the palm region, thumb region and digit regions are all manufactured from a material suitable for handling one of beef, pork and poultry.

4. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the palm region, thumb region and digit regions are provided with a textured pattern on an exterior surface thereof, and wherein the textured pattern is provided on between 70% and 100% of an exterior surface of said palm region.

5. The glove as defined in claim **4**, wherein the textured pattern is provided on between 60% and 100% of an exterior surface of each of the digit regions.

6. The glove as defined in claim **5**, wherein digit regions include an index finger region adapted to receive an index finger therein; and the thumb region includes an interior side surface disposed adjacent the index finger region; and wherein the textured pattern is provided on between 30% and 50% of the thumb region.

7. The glove as defined in claim **5**, wherein substantially 100% of the textured pattern on the thumb region is provided on the interior side surface thereof.

8. The glove as defined in claim **4**, wherein said textured pattern comprises a gripping surface formed from one of a plurality of raised fan-shaped areas and diamond-shaped areas disposed in abutting contact with each other and embossed on an exterior surface one or more of the palm region, digit regions and thumb region.

9. The glove as defined in claim **8**, wherein said palm region, thumb region and digit regions are molded from natural rubber latex.

10. The glove as defined in claim **4**, wherein said textured pattern comprises a gripping surface formed from a plurality of raised diamond-shaped areas disposed in abutting contact with each other and embossed on an exterior surface one or more of the palm region, digit regions and thumb region.

11. The glove as defined in claim **10**, wherein said palm region, thumb region and digit regions are molded from a synthetic rubber consisting of one of acrylonitrile-butadiene, polychloroprene or polyvinyl chloride.

12. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the digit regions include an index finger region adapted to receive an index finger therein; and wherein the index finger region has a circumference and the circumference of the index finger region of a size 7 glove is increased by 10 mm over the industry standard of 55 mm for a size 7 glove; and the circumference of the index finger region for a size 9 glove is increased by 12 mm over the industry standard of 65 mm for a size 9 glove.

13. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the digit regions include a middle finger region adapted to receive a middle finger therein; and wherein the middle finger region has a circumference and the circumference of the middle finger region for a size 7 glove is increased by 15 mm over the industry standard of 59 mm for a size 7 glove; and the circumference of the middle finger region for a size 9 glove is increased by 13 mm for a size 9 glove.

14. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the palm region has a circumference and the circumference of the palm region for a size 10 glove is increased by 36 over the industry standard of 235 mm for a size 10 glove.

15. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the digit regions includes an index finger region terminating in a tip a distance remote from the palm region; and wherein the index finger region is disposed adjacent the thumb region and is separated therefrom by a crotch; and wherein the crotch in a size 9 glove is located 9 mm further away from the tip of the index finger region than the industry standard of 121 mm away from the tip of the index finger region of a size 9 glove; and is located 7 mm further away from the tip of the index finger region in a size 10 glove than the industry standard of 125 mm in a size 10 glove.

16. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the glove is disposable.

17. The glove as defined in claim **1**, wherein the palm region has a front exterior surface adapted to cover the palm of the hand and a back exterior surface adapted to cover the back of the hand; and wherein each of the front and back exterior surfaces is provided with a textured gripping pattern in substantially identical locations.

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